

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, and 10 are in independent form, and have been amended hereby. Entry of this Amendment and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,761,635 ("Hoshino"); and of the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over Hoshino.

Independent Claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended hereby to emphasize that the relay unit is an external relay unit as clearly shown in Figs. 1-3 of the present application, for example.

It is respectfully submitted that Hoshino fails to teach or suggest that "the relay unit is located outside the entertainment apparatus and includes:

a main body connector for detachably connecting the relay unit to the entertainment apparatus;

at least one or a plurality of controller connectors for detachably connecting the one or the plurality of manipulation terminals," as recited in amended independent Claim 1, and similarly in amended independent Claims 9 and 10.

The Office Action in paragraph 6 equates the relay unit with the PAD/Memory Card Connector 7A-8B shown in Fig. 7. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that the portions 7A-8B shown in Fig. 7 or Fig. 1 are clearly internal parts of the entertainment apparatus 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 10 are not anticipated by Hoshino.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 10, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Hoshino.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Entry of this Amendment and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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